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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 67, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

~~Described is~~ This invention provides a method for decreasing the amount of mSREBP in a cell characterized by an elevated level of mSREBP, ~~comprising contacting the~~ wherein the cell is contacted with an agent that specifically inhibits de novo synthesis of ceramide in the cell, thereby decreasing the amount of mSREBP in the cell. ~~Also described are~~ This invention further provides related methods and articles of manufacture.